

SOUTH AFRICAN
HINDU MAHA SABHA

THE NATIONAL BODY FOR HINDUS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Founded by Swami Shankaranandji Sannyasi on 31st May 1912

42 MAUD LANE PHONES P.O. BOX 4932
DURBAN 4001 (031) 3091951 DURBAN 4000
NATAL 3093477 NATAL
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA FAX (031) 3091959 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
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6th March 1992

The Chairman - CODESA
Mr P. Gordhan

P.O. Box 307

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1600

Sir:

RESOLUTION: SINGLE FAITH WORKSHOP

Emanating from the proceedings of the National Inter-faith Conference on Religion - State Relations, held in Johannesburg from 2 - 4 December 1990, the South African Hindu Maha Sabha held its Single Faith Workshop on 2nd February 1992 at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Durban.

The Resolution adopted at the S.A. Maha Sabha Workshop was discussed at a National Inter-faith Conference organised by the South African Chapter of the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP - SA).

In the light of this development and for justice and peace, the S.A. Hindu Maha Sabha is forwarding copies of its resolution to all Political and Government bodies taking part at Codesa.

We trust that the contents of the resolution will be taken into consideration for inclusion in a Bill of Rights in a new Constitution for a non-racial, democratic and just South Africa.

Yours faithfully

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S. PADAYACHEE (MRS)
R. KALLIDEEN

JT. HON. SECRETARIES

P.S.: Copies of resolution handed in Durban to Mr M. Mohanlal (MP) to hand to

19 delegates of Working Group 2 of Codesa.

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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: THE JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES

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3 FEBRUARY 1992

THIS WORKSHOP OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HINDU MAHA SABHA HELD IN DURBAN ON SUNDAY,

2ND FEBRUARY 1992 REITERATES ITS ADHERENCE TO ARTICLE 18 OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH ENSHRINES THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION AND THE FREEDOM IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE, TO MANIFEST HIS RELIGION OR BELIEF IN TEACHING, PRACTICE, WORSHIP AND OBSERVANCE;

IT NOTES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTER-FAITH CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS

STATE RELATIONS HELD IN JOHANNESBURG FROM 2ND - 4TH DECEMBER 1990 WHERE IT WAS DECLARED THAT SOCIETY SHOULD MOVE FROM A POLITICAL CLIMATE OF CONFLICT TO A CLIMATE AND PERIOD OF RECONCILIATION AND IN WHICH THE FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND ASSOCIATED PRACTICES WITHIN A JUST DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY SHOULD BE GUARANTEED IN A JUSTICIABLE BILL OF RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR A NON-RACIAL, NON-SEXIST DEMOCRATIC AND JUST SOUTH AFRICA.

THIS WORKSHOP FURTHER AGREES THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL WHILST HAVING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS CONSCIENCE, DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO VILIFY OR RIDICULE ANOTHER PERSON'S RELIGION AND PRACTICES.

THIS WORKSHOP RESOLVES TO RECOMMEND THE ELECTION OF A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONTINUING COMMITTEE OF THE HINDU FAITH TO PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AND FORUMS ORGANISED BY

OTHER GROUPS WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING FORWARD ITS DECISIONS AND PERCEPTIONS IN SUCH FORUMS SO THAT ULTIMATELY ITS VIEWS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA, ITS CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS AND THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR WOMEN AND YOUTH.

THIS WORKSHOP AGREES AND ADVOCATES THAT IN THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA AN UNDERSTANDING
AND TOLERANCE OF ALL RELIGIONS MUST BE CULTIVATED, AND ALL RELIGIONS AND RELIGIOUS
PRACTICES MUST BE PROTECTED FROM SLANDER AND THAT TIME SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN THE
SCHOOL CURRICULUM FOR RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS OF OUR CHILDREN WITHOUT BIAS OR FAVOUR.

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(SMT) S.PADAYACHFE Â°

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INTER-FAITH CONFERENCE : SINGLE-FAITH WORKSHOP - 2 FEBRUARY 1992, MAHATMA GANDHI HALL,
52 LORNE STREET, DURBAN AT 2.30PM.

1. COMMENCEMENT: OPENING PRAYER CONDUCTED BY MR T.S.MAHARAU.

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: MR P.V.LAKHANI, PRESIDENT OF THE MAHA SABHA DELIVERED A
BRIEF ADDRESS, WHICH IS SUMMARISED BELOW:

2.1 THE HINDU VIEWPOINT ON JUSTICE AND FAIRPLAY.

2.2 THE HINDU COMMUNITY NOT SEEKING ETHNIC GROUP PROTECTION, BUT HIS RIGHTS ARE
SAFEGUARDED IN THE PROPOSED BILL OF RIGHTS.

2.3 SOUTH AFRICA IS A NATION OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

2.4 THE STATE SHOULD ACCEPT ALL RELIGIONS AS EQUALS.

2.5 EMPHASIS ON MORAL AND ETHICAL VALUES BY RIGHT KIND OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

2.6 THE HINDU DICTUM OF "VASUDAIVA KUTUMBAKUM" - THE WORLD IS ONE FAMILY.

2.7 THE FOUR PILLARS OF HINDUISM - FAITH, TRUTH, DEDICATION, SUBLIMATION.

2.8 HINDU DHARMA AND ITS 3 ASPECTS OF TRUTH, LOVE AND BEAUTY.

3. INPUT:

3.1 FREEDOM AND SOCIETY : CHAIRPERSON: MR M.V.NAIDOO

3.2 FREEDOM OF RELIGION : CHAIRPERSON: MRS SARRES PADAYACHEE

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5.1 RELIGION - STATE RELATIONS: CHAIRPERSON : MR M.V.NAIDOO

6. RESOLUTION/DECLARATION: REFER PAGE 2

MOVER: MR RAM MAHARAJ SECONDER: MR S.NARAINSINGH

7. CONCLUDING PRAYER : MR T.S.MAHARAJ

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: THE JOINT HONORARY SECRETARIES